

H.J. RES. 69

Introduced by Rep. Don Young (R-AK), H.J. Res. 69 is a joint resolution of disapproval of the “Non-Subsistence Take of Wildlife, and Public Participation and Closure Procedures, on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska” rule under the Congressional Review Act. Finalized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on August 5, 2016, the rule seizes authority away from the State of Alaska to manage fish and wildlife for both non-subsistence and subsistence uses on federal wildlife refuges in Alaska. It significantly alters the way national refuges are managed and sets dangerous precedent for the Lower 48.

Congressional Review Act

The CRA is a powerful Congressional resolution of disapproval to overturn last minute regulations from the previous administration under an expedited legislative process. Passage of the CRA ensures that no substantially similar rule can be issued in the future.

VIOLATES RULE OF LAW

The rule violates the “Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act,” signed into law in 1980, which gives the state authority to manage fish and wildlife resources on state, private and federal lands throughout Alaska.

ENFORCES TOP-DOWN MANAGEMENT POLICIES

The rule fundamentally alters how FWS manages Alaska’s 16 federal wildlife refuges and the fish, wildlife and habitats within them creating a system of top-down decision making as opposed to cooperation and empowerment of local land managers as originally intended.

UNPRECEDENTED POWER GRAB

This rule represents another federal power grab by unelected bureaucrats in Washington D.C. Further, the rule sets a dangerous precedent for the Lower 48 states in regards to top-down management policies of wildlife refuges across the country.

LOCAL OPPOSITION

The State of Alaska filed a lawsuit against the Department of the Interior and the Fish and Wildlife Service to overturn the final rule in addition to opposition from Alaska Natives, Alaska hunting and angling communities and wildlife associations.

Past House Action

- February 26, 2016: Rep. Young offered an amendment to House-passed H.R. 2406, the Sportsmen Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act, to reverse the FWS’s proposed rule. The amendment passed by a vote of 236-169.
- July 14, 2016: Rep. Young offered an amendment to the FY 2017 Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, that would prohibit funds from implementing the proposed rule. The amendment passed by voice vote.